

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A bite device for correct positioning of a ~~patient-patient~~ for taking a radiograph with a panoramic X-ray device, comprising

a holding member that can be located in a directionally stable position relative to said X-ray device, a plate that can be pivoted relatively to said holding member and which exhibits a bite piece, on which the patient bites, and means for detecting the angle of deflection α between said plate and said holding member, as is correlated with the degree of inclination of the occlusal plane, which means are disposed in a region of the occlusal system which is free from X-ray irradiation when the radiograph is taken~~[[.]]~~,

including means for indicating the angular position of the pivoted plate, and

including driving means for vertical adjustment of said holding member and pivoting said plate.

2. (Previously Presented) A bite device as defined in claim 1, wherein means for detecting the angle of deflection α comprise one or more sensors disposed in said holding member.

3.-4. (Cancel)

5. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-4 1, wherein said driving means move said plate automatically into a predefined angular position and stop when said predefined angular position is attained.

6. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-4 5, wherein said driving means indicate when said predefined angular position of said plate is attained by means of optical and/or acoustic signals.

7. (Currently Amended) A bite device ~~as defined in claim 1, for correct positioning of a patient for taking a radiograph with a panoramic X-ray device, comprising~~

a holding member that can be located in a directionally stable position relative to said X-ray device, a plate that can be pivoted relatively to said holding member and which exhibits a bite piece, on which the patient bites, and means for detecting the angle of deflection α between said plate and said holding member, as is correlated with the degree of inclination of the occlusal plane, which means are disposed in a region of the occlusal system which is free from X-ray irradiation when the radiograph is taken,

wherein said pivoted plate is connected to a rail which is disposed in said holding member, is capable of being moved upwardly and downwardly and has an opening ~~for the purpose of positioning-detecting the position of said rail-in-said holding member by detector means.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-~~1~~ 7, wherein said bite piece is ~~provided with~~ includes a replaceable replaceable protective sheath.

9. (Cancel).

10. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-~~9~~ 16, wherein said bite piece is of a soft material.

11. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-~~9~~ 16, wherein said bite piece is of a substantially radiolucent material.

12. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-~~9~~ 16, wherein said bite piece is made of closed-cell ethylene foam.

13. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-~~9~~ 16, wherein said bite piece occupies an angle β of the dental arch ~~with which~~ ranges from 20° and to 40° and is, in particular, approximately 30°.

14. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-~~9~~ 16, wherein said bite piece has, on its upper surface and on its undersurface respectively, a bite groove for the accommodation of the dental arch of the upper and lower jaws of the patient.

15. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim-~~9~~ 16, wherein said bite piece is a unitary piece and is foldable along a folding edge.

16. (Currently Amended) A bite device ~~as defined in claim 9~~ for correct positioning of a patient for taking a radiograph with a panoramic X-ray device, comprising

a holding member that can be located in a directionally stable position relative to said X-ray device, a plate that can be pivoted relatively to said holding member and which exhibits a bite piece, on which the patient bites, and means for detecting the angle of deflection α between said plate and said holding member, as is correlated with the degree of inclination of the occlusal plane, which means are disposed in a region of the occlusal system which is free from X-ray irradiation when the radiograph is taken,

wherein said bite piece has, on opposite sides thereof, a wedge-shaped tapered projection and a complementary recess for the accommodation of said projection for releasably fitting said bite piece to said pivoted plate, and

wherein said bite piece is replaceable.

17. (New) A bite device as defined in claim 1, wherein said bite piece includes a replaceable protective sheath.